



Project Impact is a \$3.7M Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) investment initiative designed to equip selected Community Action Agencies, nonprofits, and public entities in their mission to serve low-income adults and families. Sixteen organizations were awarded rapid-cycle learning grants to respond to the economic and social effects of COVID-19. Models comprise one of five priority areas: (1) adapting service delivery to a physical distancing environment, (2) coordinating with public health and emergency officials to address urgent health and social outcomes, (3) identifying and training for high-demand jobs in the post COVID-19 economy, (4) making structural reforms at the community level, and (5) strengthening individual and family adaptive capacities. Technical Assistance support will ensure rapid start-up and the ability to make real-time adjustments during program development and implementation.

Hampton Roads Community Action Program, Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a steep increase in child poverty rates, material hardship among households with young children, and unemployment—disproportionately so for Black and Latino families.ⁱ From February to June 2020, the number of children in families with income below the federal poverty level rose by nearly 5 million, while in Virginia in October 2021, 26 percent of adults had difficulty covering usual household expenses.ⁱⁱ Families with low incomes experience greater stress and pressure keeping up with the overall cost of living. This stress can increase emotional and physical distress among both caregivers and children, resulting in negative health outcomes and continued financial instability.ⁱⁱⁱ One way to reduce child poverty is to create on-the-ground programs using a two-generation model that simultaneously provides wraparound services to children and parents.

Expansion of Two-Generation/Whole-Family Services

Overview: Hampton Roads Community Action Program, Inc. will expand and improve the Two-Generation/Whole-Family Pilot Program to meet the needs of both vulnerable children and their parents. HRCAP will use a family coaching model to provide guidance and support for families with low incomes in high-poverty areas. Each family sets its own goals and meets regularly with a program coach who offers guidance and assistance. Clients will connect with job readiness and occupational training services, steering them into more stable career fields that are less vulnerable to crisis events such as COVID-19. The program also links families with young children to preschool educational opportunities.

Project Aims:

- Provide comprehensive services to low-income families to create opportunities that enable families to find a pathway from poverty to prosperity
- Improve occupational education levels and employment for adults that lead to improved household income
- Identify training for high-demand jobs in the post-COVID-19 economy through public/private partnerships and innovative job training and placement efforts
- Improve access to preschool to support kindergarten readiness for children ages five and younger

FAST FACTS

Project Title:

Expansion of Two-Generation/Whole-Family Services

Focus Area:

Strengthening individual and family adaptive capacities

Grant Amount:

\$249,659

Location:

Newport News, VA

Type of Organization:

Community Action Agency

Congressional District:

VA-01, VA-02, VA-03

Authorized Official:

Edith White

Entity Website:

www.hrcapinc.org

ⁱ Masten, C., Lombardi, J., & Fisher, P. (October 28, 2021). Helping families meet basic needs enables parents to promote children's healthy growth, development. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/helping-families-meet-basic-needs-enables-parents-to-promote>

ⁱⁱ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (November 10, 2021). Tracking the COVID-19 economy's effects on food, housing, and employment hardships. Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-economy-effects-on-food-housing-and>

ⁱⁱⁱ Masten, C., Lombardi, J., & Fisher, P. (October 28, 2021). Helping families meet basic needs enables parents to promote children's healthy growth, development. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/helping-families-meet-basic-needs-enables-parents-to-promote>

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG): CSBG is a federal antipoverty block grant that funds the operations of a state-administered network of local entities, including Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and other neighborhood-based organizations. Overseen by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), CSBG provides vital assistance to states and local communities to reduce poverty, revitalize communities, and empower low-income individuals and families.